

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUN 25 1980
DATE ENTERED AUG 11 1980

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

~~The People's~~ First National Bank and Trust Company Building

AND/OR COMMON

Old National Bank Building

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

300 Broadway

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Paducah

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

01

STATE

Kentucky

VICINITY OF

CODE
021

COUNTY

McCracken

CODE

145

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Whitlow, Roberts, Houston & Russell Law Firm

STREET & NUMBER

Citizens Bank Building

CITY, TOWN

Paducah

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky 42001

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

McCracken County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Paducah

STATE

Kentucky 42001

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

1978

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Paducah is an industrial community of 31,200 located at the confluence of the Tennessee and Ohio rivers in southwestern Kentucky. The Peoples National Bank Building sits on the southwestern corner of Third and Broadway, the city's main thoroughfare, about three blocks from the Ohio River.

The Old National Bank Building has a basic temple form with classical elements for decoration. The three-bay Broadway front is dominated by four massive Corinthian columns and a triangular pediment. A dentilled and bracketed cornice frames the pediment and extends around the side of the building. Corinthian pilasters divide the bays on the Third Street side and mark the corners of the building. A plain parapet hides the flat roof of the building.

Two bronze doors mark the entrance to the bank. Corinthian pilasters decorate the interior walls of the building. An ornamented, coffered ceiling is 33 feet from the floor. The building still has the original brass and marble teller cages and the marble vault entrance. The windows are barred with ornamental gratings.

The bank building is currently being adapted for use as law offices. No alterations are being made to the stone exterior of the building. Two layers of offices and conference rooms are being constructed inside the building. The brass and marble teller cages have been moved a few feet to provide a privacy corridor for the lawyers. The original brass lighting fixtures and teller cage windows are being retained. Despite the new construction, a clear view of the Corinthian capitals of the pilasters and the ornamented ceiling will remain. In as many ways as possible, the original details of the building are being preserved and enhanced.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1910 BUILDER/ARCHITECT W. L. Brainerd

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

For seventy years the People's First National Bank and Trust Company Building has been a landmark in Paducah. The building was constructed by the First National Bank and was formally opened on March 27, 1911. Organized in 1865, the First National Bank was, at that time, the oldest bank in Paducah. It was also one of the oldest national banks in the South, being one of the Southern banks to take advantage of the passage of the national bank bill.¹ The Old National Bank Building is a superb example of the Beaux-Arts architecture that was popular in America at the beginning of this century. This symmetrical, classical style seemed appropriate for financial institutions because it reflected an institution's stability and tradition.

The building was designed by the architect W. L. Brainerd. Construction began in mid-1910 and was carried out by the C.L. Brey Construction Company of St. Louis. The original cost of the building and furnishings was about \$85,000.²

The First National Bank remained in the building until it was absorbed by the City National Bank in 1930. The building remained empty until it was purchased by the People's First National Bank in January 1931.³

The People's bank relocated in new facilities in 1970. The old building remained empty for ten years while bank officials tried to find a buyer who would preserve

¹The Paducah Evening Sun, March 27, 1911, p. 1; a 1910 newspaper article stated that the First National Bank was "conservative in business and had the reputation of being one of the safest banks in the country."

²Ibid. p. 1.

³The Paducah Sun-Democrat, January 20, 1931, p. 1; during the flood of 1937, the waters of the Ohio River stood nine feet high inside the bank. Paper currency and records had to be ironed dry by employees after the flood waters receded.

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Paducah Evening Sun. March 27, 1911; March 28, 1911.

The Paducah Sun-Democrat. January 20, 1931.

The Paducah Sun. December 14, 1979.

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Paducah East

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1, 6 3, 5, 8, 0, 8, 0 4, 1, 0, 5, 5, 2, 0
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A rectangular lot, 48.83 feet wide, which fronts on Broadway and 76.75 feet deep, which runs along Third Street. (McCracken County Tax Plat Book 1, page 21-No. 15, 16, 18.)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Jayne C Henderson Historian/Richard Holland

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

May 30, 1980

STREET & NUMBER

104 Bridge Street

TELEPHONE

(502) 564-3741

CITY OR TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Donna C. Hopkins

TITLE

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer 6-19-80

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

for W. Ray Luce
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

8/11/80

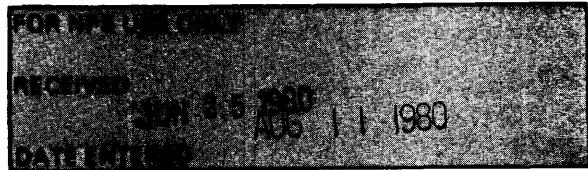
ATTEST: *Kristen J. O'Connell*

DATE

7/24/80

OFFICE OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

The People's First National Bank and Trust Company

McCracken County, Kentucky

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

the building. In December 1979, the law firm of Whitlow, Roberts, Houston & Russell purchased the building and began to rehabilitate the interior for their offices.⁴ The structure is currently undergoing a very careful and sensitive adaptation.

The People's National Bank Building is an especially fine example of the Beaux-Arts style. The classic elements, which include a triangular pediment, Corinthian columns and a bracketed and dentillated cornice are well designed and superbly crafted. Of special note are the bronze entrance doors which call attention to the facade.

The People's First National Bank building has had great significance in the economic history of Paducah, being the home of two of Paducah's most important financial institutions. It is gaining new significance by becoming the home of one of Paducah's oldest and most respected law firms.

⁴ The Paducah Sun, December 4, 1979, p. 2.